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La Vie Paroissiale en France au XIII^e Siècle d'après les Actes Épiscopaux. Par OLGA DOBIACHE-ROJDESTVENSKY. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1911. Pp. 191.)

THE book in hand is good as far as it goes. It has several virtues not often found within the same covers: it sticks absolutely to its theme; is clear, concise, and interesting; and, on the whole, sound. It is not exhaustive of its subject, however, nor does it pretend to be, for its title shows that it uses only one class of sources, episcopal acts. Every student of the period knows that papal and royal correspondence, chronicles and especially feudal lays, contain pertinent information. Whether or not this method of exploiting only one category of sources is properly called historical scholarship, is a question of secondary importance in this instance as the author announces that the part at hand is only a fragment of a larger work, already in preparation, on morals and ecclesiastical discipline in the thirteenth century.

La Vie Paroissiale is an addition to the history of medieval civilization. It was undertaken at the suggestion of M. Langlois, whose later works have been devoted to this deserving field of knowledge. The limits of the book are from the beginning of the reign of Louis IX. to the first years of the fourteenth century, a choice of period which is not as arbitrary as might appear. The beginning was fixed by the fact that Luchaire's *La Société Française au Temps de Philippe-Auguste* had exhausted the subject to the time of Louis IX., the *terminus ad quem* of the book by a change in the character of episcopal acts in the early part of the fourteenth century.

The bibliography at the beginning of the volume is uneven in character, giving books that were of considerable use side by side with others that can have been of no practical help, and omitting the titles of others that were probably used, and in any event are more valuable than some of those named. It leaves the impression of being inserted *pro forma*. The study itself is divided into two parts, of which the first is a critical consideration of the sources. The author opens with a useful critical note on Mansi, *Sacrorum Conciliorum nova et amplissima Collectio*, which might seem almost gratuitous after the merciless examination of that collection by Dom Quentin about a decade ago. Continuing, the author in several chapters, which once for all prove a thorough acquaintance with the pertinent sources, classifies "episcopal acts" as: conciliar statutes, which are not fruitful for information about parochial life; synodal statutes, for forty-five of which texts have been discovered; episcopal decrees, of which the author has assembled sixteen; and reports of church visitors, seven of which have come down to us. It is a pity that a work otherwise so excellent should, besides the ordinary errors which can best be called to the author's attention, have a fault which for the protection of the reader must here be mentioned: the misdating of bishop's reigns. This evidently proceeds from a misunderstanding of Eubel, and results in a mistake of a year, or sometimes two,

which is not much, but none the less impairs the reliability of the work. Though this mistake occurs throughout the book, by the perversity of mundane things there is a cumulation of errors on page 77. Thus Eudes Rigaud was archbishop of Rouen 1248-1275 (not 1247-1275). Jean de Sulli and Simon de Beaulieu were archbishops of Bourges (not Rouen), Bertrand du (not de) Got was archbishop of Bordeaux 1209-1305 (not 1297-1299, during which period he was bishop of Comminges), and Guillaume le Maire was bishop of Angers 1291-1314 (not 1290-1314, or 1261-1314, as given on page 59, where the correct date was evidently intended but the 9 probably was inverted). But this page is unique and does not fairly represent the book, which is generally accurate.

The second part of the study, *La Vie Paroissiale*, is treated in five chapters: I. L'Unité de la Paroisse; II. Les Intrus; III. Les Empiètements du Monde Laïque; IV. Vita et Honestas Clericorum (could not this have been in French since the rest of the titles are?); V. Conclusion. Admitting that a great deal of what is here set forth is already known, these chapters are none the less highly interesting and useful. Every one knows the impression gained from a short visit: certain episodes and objects remain in the mind with all the positiveness that comes from actual experience; and it is on the basis of these experiences and the impressions that one has gained, he knows not when or how, that the life of the place visited is pictured. The chapters before us with much skill take us for just such a fleeting visit to the parish curé, who is the central figure of these pages. In our short stay with him we get positive knowledge of some of his daily life and doings; we perceive that if he does all that is expected of him he will be a busy man, that his office requires capacity, courage, and education, that it gives him opportunity (which he does not always despise) to indulge his selfish or carnal nature, but, on the other hand, he can be, and often is, a tower of strength for the right. All this, these chapters permit us to see with our own eyes, as it were, and they deserve recognition for it.

The book has appended the text of certain pertinent sources which have not previously been printed.

EDWARD B. KREHBIEL.

Geschichte der Serben. Von CONSTANTIN JIREČEK. Erster Band (bis 1371). (Götha: Friedrich Andreas Perthes. 1911. Pp. xx, 442.)

At last we are to have a really scientific history of Servia. Hitherto there have been no general histories of the country available in Western languages save the by no means recent or impartial work of Kállay or the still older books of Hilferding and Rajić. The present work forms a part of the *Europäische Staatengeschichte*, begun by Heeren and Ukert, and continued by Giesebrecht and Lamprecht. The author, the well-known professor of Slavic philology in the University of Vienna, published, in 1876—at the age of twenty-two—an excellent *Geschichte der Bulgaren*, and has since put forth a long series of monographs dealing